

REMARKS

In an office action dated September 20, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, and 10-17. The Examiner also objects to claims 7-9. In response to the office action, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Claims 1-17 remain in the Application. In light of the following arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims and this Application be allowed.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication Number US 2004/00159958A1 for Zara et al. (Zara). In view of U.S. Patent Number 6,415,314 issued to Fee et al. (Fee). In order to maintain an obviousness rejection, the Examiner must provide prima facie evidence of obviousness. To support prima facie evidence of obviousness, the Examiner must provide references that teach each and every limitation of a claim, a motivation to combine the reference and a reasonable expectation of success. The Examiner has not provided references that teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention or a motivation to combine the references. Thus the obviousness rejection must be removed.

Claim 1 recites "assigning an IP address to at least one internal chassis occupant if said request was received from one of said at least one internal chassis occupant." Neither Zara nor Fee teach this limitation. Instead, Zara teaches a method in which a node in a router requests and receives configuration information. See paragraph 17. Zara does not state the information that a template includes. Thus, Zara does not teach assigning an IP address. In fact, the only mention of an IP address in Zara is that a MAC address may be needed to give an asset a correct IP address. See paragraph 4. However, there is no mention of assigning an IP address to an asset. In claim 1, a request for an IP address is received; an available IP address is determined and assigned to the requesting chassis component. This is the actual providing of an IP address for a component in the chassis. Thus, this limitation is not taught by Zara.

Fee also does not teach assigning an IP address to an internal chassis component. Instead, Fee teaches a system for sharing asset information between components in a router. See Col. 2, lines 48-62. There is no mention of components requesting an IP address or a component in the system that assigns an IP address. Thus, Fee does not teach the limitation of assigning an IP address to an internal component responsive to receiving a request for an IP address.

Since neither Fee or Zara teach the limitation of assigning an IP address. There is no prima facie showing of obviousness. Thus, the Examiner must remove the rejection of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be allowed.

Even if Zara and Fee teach the assigning limitation, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation to combine. The Examiner has merely made an assertion that one skilled in the art would combine the references to use the advantages taught by Zara within a router with the backplane. The Examiner has not provided any evidence in the prior art that this assertion is true. The Examiner is required to provide such evidence and without any evidence in the prior art of this motivation the rejection cannot be maintained and must be removed. Thus, Applicants respectfully request claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-3 are dependent from claim 1. Thus claims 2-3 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-3 be allowed.

Claim 10 recites an apparatus that performs the method of claim 1. Thus, claim 10 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request claim 10 be allowed.

Claim 11 is dependent from claim 10. Thus claim 11 is allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that claim 11 be allowed.

Claim 12 recites software that performs the method of claim 1. Thus claim 12 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that claim 12 be allowed.

Claims 13-14 are dependent from claim 12. Thus claims 13-14 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request claims 13-14 be allowed.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,415,314 issued to Fee et al. (Fee). In view of U.S. Patent Publication Number US 2004/00159958A1 for Zara et al. (Zara). In order to maintain an obviousness rejection, the Examiner must provide prima facie evidence of obviousness. To support prima facie evidence of obviousness, the Examiner must provide references that teach each and every limitation of a claim, a motivation to combine the reference and a reasonable expectation of success. The Examiner has not provided references that

teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention or a motivation to combine the references. Thus the obviousness rejection must be removed.

Claim 15 recites an IPAM that assigns an IP address to at least one internal chassis occupant if said request was received from one of said at least one internal chassis occupant. Neither Zara nor Fee teach this limitation. Fee also does not teach an IPAM that assigns an IP address to an internal chassis component. Instead, Fee teaches a system for sharing asset information between components in a router. See Col. 2, lines 48-62. There is no mention of components requesting an IP address or a component in the system that assigns an IP address. Thus, Fee does not teach the limitation of assigning an IP address to an internal component responsive to receiving a request for an IP address.

Zara does not teach this component. Instead, Zara teaches a method in which a node in a router requests and receives configuration information. See paragraph 17. Zara does not state the information that a template includes. Thus, Zara does not teach assigning an IP address. In fact, the only mention of an IP address in Zara is that a MAC address may be needed to give an asset a correct IP address. See paragraph 4. However, there is no mention of assigning an IP address to an asset. In claim 1, a request for an IP address is received; an available IP address is determined and assigned to the requesting chassis component. This is the actual providing of an IP address for a component in the chassis. Thus, this limitation is not taught by Fee and Zara.

Even if Zara and Fee teach the assigning limitation, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation to combine. The Examiner has merely made an assertion that one skilled in the art would combine the references to use the advantages taught by Zara within a router with the backplane. The Examiner has not provided any evidence in the prior art that this assertion is true. The Examiner is required to provide such evidence and without any evidence in the prior art of this motivation the rejection cannot be maintained and must be removed. Thus, Applicants respectfully request claim 15 be allowed.

Claims 16-17 are dependent from claim 15. Thus claims 16-17 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that claims 16-17 be allowed.

The Examiner rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fee. To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) a single source must contain all of the

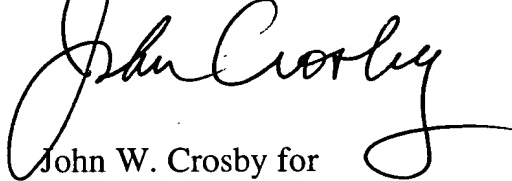
elements of a claim. *Lewmar Marine Inc. v. Bariant Inc.*, 827 F.2d 744 3 USPQ.2d 1766, 1768 (Fed. Cir. 1987) Cert. Denied. Moreover, the single source must disclose all of the claimed elements "arranged as in the claim." *Structural Rubber Products Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 868 F.2D 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Fee does not teach all of the elements in claim 4 as arranged in the claim.

Claim 4 recites an ICS that has an ISC occupant that receives requests from other components for IP addresses and assigns IP addresses. Fee does not teach this limitation. Instead, Fee teaches a system for sharing asset information between components in a router. See Col. 2, lines 48-62. There is no mention of components that received request from other components assigned an IP address. Thus, Fee does not teach the limitation of assigning an IP address to an internal component responsive to receiving a request for an IP address.

Claims 5-9 are dependent from claim 4. Thus claims 5-9 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that claims 5-9 be allowed.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-586-9500.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.


John W. Crosby for
Reg. No.: 49,058

William P. Wilbar
Reg. No.: 43,265

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Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
P.O. Box 6149
Stateline, NV 89449
(775) 586-9500
(775) 586-9550 Fax